

Atty. Dkt. No. 042049-0107  
Appl. No. 10/718,266

Amendments to the Claims:

This version of the claims will replace all previous versions, and listings, of the claims in the present application:

Listing of the claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for growing circoviruses, in particular porcine circoviruses (PCV), which comprises circoviruses obtained from an infected cell culture being, after one or more passages in cultures of porcine, bovine or human cells, developed in these cell cultures and a cytopathogenic effect occurring thereby.
2. (Withdrawn) A method for neutralizing or removing circoviruses from biological material, which comprises treating it with an antibody-containing substrate such as porcine serum or human immunoglobulin or subjecting it to a pasteurization method.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting and quantifying the circovirus antigen by the ELISA method, which comprises an antibody against circoviruses which is bound to a support material being incubated with the serum to be investigated for circovirus antigen, and thus the antigen being bound, and the latter being brought into contact with a labeled antibody directed against the antigen and, after the unbound, labeled antibody has been washed out, the signal emitted by the bound, labeled antibody being measured.
5. (Withdrawn) A vaccine, which comprises inactivated or avirulent circoviruses.

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6. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic aid which comprises inactivated or avirulent circoviruses.
7. (Withdrawn) The use of circoviruses for investigating the capacity of a method for manufacturing pharmaceuticals of biological origin, of additives for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals or of a diagnostic aid to inactivate and/or remove circoviruses or related viruses.
8. (Withdrawn) A method of growing a porcine circovirus (PCV), comprising culturing porcine cells that are infected with PWD circovirus type A (PCVA) and/or PWD circovirus of type B (PCVB).
9. (Withdrawn) A method of neutralizing or removing a porcine circovirus (PCV) from a host, comprising administering to a host at least one antibody chosen from mono- and polyclonal antibodies, fragments of mono- and polyclonal antibodies, and chimeric antibodies, wherein said antibodies are capable of specifically recognizing a polypeptide expressed by porcine circovirus (PVC).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Withdrawn) A vaccine, which comprises an attenuated or inactivated viral particle comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for a polypeptide of PWD circovirus.
12. (Withdrawn) A kit for diagnosing infection by a PWD circovirus, which comprises an attenuated or inactivated viral particle comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for a polypeptide of PWD circovirus.
13. (Withdrawn) A method for growing circoviruses, which comprises the steps of

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- a) obtaining circoviruses from an infected first cell culture,
- b) inoculating a second cell culture with the circoviruses,
- c) making one or more passages of the second cell culture,
- d) analyzing said second cell culture for a cytopathogenic effect (CPE), and
- e) harvesting the circoviruses from the CPE positive cultures.

14. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the circoviruses are porcine circoviruses.

15. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second cell culture comprises cells of porcine, bovine or human origin.

16. (New) A method for detecting and quantifying at least one antibody directed against a circovirus of type PCVB by an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) method.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the method comprises adsorbing the circovirus of type PCVB onto a support material.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the method comprises depositing a polypeptide expressed by a porcine circovirus (PCV) in the wells of a microtiter plate.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the circovirus of type PCVB contains a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence with at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 25, or SEQ ID NO: 27.

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20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the circovirus of type PCVB contains a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 25, or SEQ ID NO: 27.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the circovirus of type PCVB contains a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 23.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the circovirus of type PCVB contains a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 25.